



THE SOTOYOME NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012

Post 111, Squadron 111 and Legion Riders Chapter 111, PO Box 281, Healdsburg, CA 95448
Unit 111, American Legion Auxiliary, PO Box 174, Healdsburg, CA 95448

A FANTASTIC 4TH

Membership Renewal

The 2013 membership renewal process has started. Each program has their own schedule and procedures. For example, Sotoyome Unit 111 received their renewal packets at the the district meeting on July 25th, while the Squadron and post packets were distributed at the Convention in Redding.

The renewal notices for Sotoyome Squadron 111 have already gone out. Adjutant Tom Grimes was able to send them all out via Email for the first time.

Sotoyome Post 111 will begin working their renewal process by the end of July.

Once again **George Erdman** and his crew didn't let the crowd down. It was another spectacular show on the high school field on Wednesday evening.

Some may have noticed the fire truck departing the area. Retired Fire Chief Bob Taylor (a reserve fire fighter with the City of Healdsburg) was dispatched to a fire. He was seen driving the water tender through Healdsburg with a big grin from ear to ear,

It was a great evening and members of the Sotoyome American Legion family can be proud of the annual show, once again the best in Sonoma County and beyond. Comments from the crowd were very positive.

Once the lights came on at the end of the show we were amazed at the citizens who stepped in and cleaned the field. One said that they wanted to make sure the fire-works return next year.

A special thanks goes to the Post, Auxiliary, Squadron and Chapter members who helped with the set up, were on the field Wednesday evening and were on the field Thursday morning to help with the cleanup.

Inside This Issue

From the Top - Commander Tom	Page 2
Adjutant's Column	Page 2
August and September Calendars	Page 3
New members	Page 4
Honor's Team	Page 4
Remembering....	Page 4
Auxiliary Happenings - President Nancy	Page 5
Sotoyome Legion Family Leadership	Page 6
SAL Update - Commander Al	Page 7
Chapter 111 ALR President Ron	Page 7
The Back Page	Page 8

Thank You WWII Veterans

They answered the call to arms during WWII and then came home when the war ended. They were the backbone of the Post.

At the July board meeting we voted to enroll all of our WWII members in the Paid Up for Life (PUFL) program. There are less than 100 on the Post rolls and this is our way of honoring their service and commitment to Sotoyome Post 111.



Sotoyome Post 111, The American Legion



From the Top

Tom Grimes, Post Commander

We started this program year with another great American Legion Fireworks Show. The comments heard on the field ranged from outstanding to the best ever, especially the grand finale.

The following is the letter to the editor that was published in the July 12th Healdsburg Tribune.

There are several groups that deserve all the credit for a very successful fireworks show. The first group is George Erdman and his crew. They work tirelessly to ensure we have a beautiful show. Each year they outdo themselves. The second group are the people of Healdsburg who contribute to our fundraising efforts. This group includes individual contributors, local businesses, those who drop money in the collection jars and those who support us at the show by stuffing money into the white buckets.

We also have to thank the City of Healdsburg who support the annual show. Behind the scenes were the city inspectors and the fire department who help ensure the safety of our workers and the spectators. The Healdsburg Police Department were present during the show to ensure public safety.

The men and women of the Sotoyome American Legion family (Post, Auxiliary Unit, the SAL Squadron and our American Legion Riders) put in hundreds of hours over the course of the year to plan, set up and cleanup after the show. The fireworks is one of our major events during the year. Even the Healdsburg Prune Packers baseball players came and helped set up the morning of the 4th.

Finally we want to thank the citizens who stepped forward and cleaned the field after the crowds had departed. Others, including members of Cub Scout Pack 21, came Thursday morning to continue cleaning. TV coverage of the debris left at Fort Mason Wednesday evening shows how lucky we are here in Healdsburg.

The show is our way of saying "Thank You" to the Healdsburg community.

Planning has already started for the 2013 show. Please let us know if you have ideas for the 2013 show.

Two Sotoyome Members Recognized

Allen Honors Santa Rosan Bud Simmons at Capitol Event Recognizing California Veterans



On June 27, Assemblymember Michael Allen joined other Assembly members in honoring California Veterans at the 5th Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon celebration at the Sacramento Convention Center.

Assembly member Allen's honoree was Bud Simmons of Santa Rosa. Simmons, a San Francisco native, served in the United States Air Force from 1951-1958.

During Simmons' career in the military, his older brother served in the U.S. Navy, while his younger brother served in the U.S. Marines. During the Korean War, Simmons' mother made a Blue Star Banner with three stars to honor her three sons who were in the U.S. Armed Forces. The display of such banners was very evident during WW II. After being discharged from the service, Simmons spent most of his career in credit management. He lived in Southern California for 30 years, raising five children and two grandchildren, moving back to Northern California in 1988.

Elaine Simmons, his wife of 55 years, passed away last year. Simmons was responsible for the erection of the POW/MIA Memorial in Santa Rosa Memorial Park dedicated in her memory to honor all of those who have served in the Armed Forces of The United States, past, present & future.

Simmons has stayed very active in the veterans' community. He is a founding member of Michael Ottolini AMVETS Post 40, 2nd Vice Commander for California Team AMVETS, the current president of the Sonoma County United Veterans Council, Adjutant of Michael Ottolini AMVETS Post 40 of Sonoma County, Adjutant of the American Legion Post 111, the Quartermaster of VWF Post 1844, an associate member of Marine Corps League Detachment 686, an associate member of the Vietnam Veterans of America #223, on the Sonoma County Military Honors Team, and is extremely proud to be an Honor-

Continued on Page 6

August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Post/Unit board mtgs 7pm	7 ALR Meeting <u>6pm, Windsor</u>	8	9 Post/Unit Meeting 7pm	10	11
12	13 Past Presidents Card Party 12 Noon	14	15 Newsletter Input Due	16	17	18
19 40 & 8 Flea Market	20	21 Healdsburg SOS Packing 2 pm Annex	22 Bingo at Yountville 10 am	23 Honors Team 7pm Annex	24 Sotoyome Social Pot Luck 6:00pm Bingo following	25 40 & 8 Summer Picnic
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 LABOR DAY	4	5	6	7 40 & 8 Meeting 8pm	8
9	10 Past Presidents Card Party Noon Post/Unit Board Meetings 7pm	11 ALR Meeting 6pm Windsor	12	13 Post/Unit 7pm	14	15 Newsletter Input Due
16 40 & 8 Flea Market	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26 Bingo at Yountville 10am	27 Honors Team 7pm Annex	28 Sotoyome Social Pot Luck 6:00pm Bingo following	29



Sotoyome American Legion Family 2012-2013 Leadership

Post 111 The American Legion

Commander	Tom Grimes	481-9169
1st Vice	Ken Sandoval	838-7068
2nd Vice	Warren Luke	332-3843
Adjutant	Bud Simmons	971-0523
Finance Officer	Bob Taylor	894-0857
Judge Advocate	Doug Newton	217-6309
Chaplain	Bill Stiles	433-3733
Sgt. at Arms	Tricia Lay	695-0345
Service Officer	Steve Piotter	217-6236
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	843-4790
Jr. Past Cdr	Dave Richey	568-7278
Executive Board	Frank Jerins	
	George Sager	433-2044
	Frank Teuschler	431-2328
	Roy Caporale	894-8954
	Stan Shusda	838-4593

Unit 111 American Legion Auxiliary

President	Nancy Evers	481-9169
1st Vice	Linda Karnstedt	529-1243
2nd Vice	Gail Gibson	431-1348
Secretary	Marie Canale	431-0563
Treasurer	Melanie Taylor	894-0857
Chaplain	Bettie Crandall	838-4035
Sgt. at Arms	Judy Chavez	894-4636
Marshall	Eddy Sauers	838-9429
Historian		
Junior Pass Pres.	Rose Sandoval	838-7068
Executive Board	Virginia Hawley	838-6395
	Virginia Wallace	838-8702
	Thelma Frey	546-7791

Squadron 111

Sons of the American Legion

Commander	Al Delsid	894-5603
1 st Vice	Mark Archambault	292-6746
Adjutant	Tom Grimes	481-9169
Finance	Bob Taylor	894-0857
Chaplain	Al Delsid	894-5603
Historian	Harold Bagdonas	843-4790
Sgt at Arms	Ron Collier	239-6703
Jr. Past Commander	Tom Grimes	481-9169

Chapter 111 American Legion Riders

President	Ron Collier	239-6703
Vice	Mitch Laing	623-9179
Secretary	Doug Newton	217-6309
Treasurer	Steve Bowne	578-4775
Sgt at Arms	Terry Perry	878-9790
Ride Captain	M. Archambault	292-6746
Jr. Past President	Gary Greenough	837-8384

Honor's Team

The **Honor's Team** is looking for a few Good Men and Women. Our team is called upon weekly to render the final honors for our fellow Veterans. They also march in local parades and conduct other flag ceremonies.

Practices are held at the annex on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday each month, starting a 7pm.

Call George Sager at 433-2044 for more information or visit one of the practice sessions.

Chaplain's Corner

From Post Chaplain Bill Stiles



A Prayer

Almighty God,
we pray to You to help us
have faith in God and our country.
To keep the freedom we have cherished
for over 200 years and that with this
freedom we may continue to grow in
all of our undertakings. Also, help us with
the friendship we have made to learn to
love one another so that harmony and
love may be with us always in this
great land of ours.
We ask this in Your Name.
Amen.

Please call me to report comrades who have passed away or are hospitalized at 707-433-3733.

Remembering...

Since the last newsletter we have said a final goodbye to the following members of our American Legion Family.

Judy Crandall, Unit 111

Please let your Chaplain know when you become aware of the death or illness of one of our Legion family members. You can also let one of the board members know and they will pass the word.



Sotoyome Unit 111, The American Legion



Auxiliary Happenings

Nancy Evers, President, Unit 111



The fireworks show was beautiful and well attended by the community. Thank you to all the Auxiliary members who brought brownies and other treats for our booth at the show. Special thanks to the ladies who manned the booth at the fireworks. Once again you came through.

The state convention in Redding was enjoyable and informative. Our new State President is Terry Mikesell from Redding.

Don't forget our monthly social night. We have a potluck meal and then play bingo. This month the date is Friday, August 24th.

We are in the process of "getting our ducks in a row" for the year. This will definitely be a wonderful year filled with events and opportunities to lend our hearts and hands to Veterans, our active duty and the guard and reserve personnel and their families, our community and the Post.

If you have fresh ideas you would like to share, please talk with me or submit a signed note to someone on the Executive Board. The officers are listed on page 4.

See you all at the August 9th meeting! Enjoy the sunshine and the beauty of summer.

Who We Are?

Sotoyome Unit 111 - Chartered in the early 1920's, in the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. Many Auxiliary members also hold dual membership in the American Legion. Some can even be found riding with the American Legion Riders.

POT LUCK AND BINGO!

Friday, August 24, 2012

Dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by Bingo.
Bring your favorite potluck dish and a salad or dessert.
Guests are welcome!

25 cents per card per game. 100% paid out.

Chaplain's Corner

Auxiliary Chaplain Bettie Crandall.

Since the last newsletter, three Sympathy Cards were sent, as well as a Get Well Card and a "thinking of you" card. We are saddened by the death of Judith Crandall, a 11 year member of the unit who was Gary Plass's sister. At our August meeting we will have a short memorial service for those members who have passed away recently. Don't forget to keep our troops in your prayers.

Supporting Our Soldiers

Healdsburg has a long history of supporting our troops and the mission continues. Yes, thousands of troops are still coming home, but thousands of men and women will remain in harms way and the boxes are still going out. Visit the Healdsburg Supporting Our Soldiers website at <http://www.healdsburgsos.org/> to see what is needed for the boxes. Future packing dates will be listed on the calendar page. You can also call Mary St. Claire at 707-433-9034.

The following items are always needed.

Food Items

Plastic or metal only please!

Instant Coffee
Powdered Drink Mixes
Protein Powdered Drinks
Instant Cereals and Soups
Jerky - Nuts - Seeds - Gum
Protein Bars - Candy
Peanut Butter - Pop Tarts
Trail mix - Granola Bars
Fruit Snacks

Non-Food Items

Black COTTON Socks
Dark Colored Knit Caps
Foot and Body Powder
Baby Wipes
Lip Balm With SPF
Hand And Foot Warmers
Waterless Hand Sanitizer
Batteries (preferably AA)
Crossword Puzzles
Word Search Books
Sudoku Puzzle Books



**FOR THOSE THAT FOUGHT FOR IT
FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR
THAT THE PROTECTED
WILL NEVER KNOW!**

Continued from Page 2:**Two Sotoyome Members Recognized**

ary Member of the North Bay Pearl Harbor Survivors. Simmons was also honored as the Sonoma County Veteran of the Year in 2011.

Lorraine Plass of Healdsburg: Vet of the Year for the First Assembly District

Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro (D-North Coast) Lorraine Plass of Healdsburg as the First Assembly District's 2012 Veteran of the Year. "Lorraine has given so much of herself in the service of veterans, ensuring that those who served have their needs met after their military careers are over," Chesbro said. "She is highly respected by both sides of the aisle here at the state Capitol for her tireless advocacy on behalf of veterans."

Ms. Plass, who attended St. Bernard's High School in Eureka, served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1974-78, then served in the Army Reserves and in the 579th Engr Bn, CA Army National Guard. Ms. Plass also attended Santa Rosa Junior College and Humboldt State University, earning a B.S. in radiology imaging. In the service she completed programs in personnel administration and hospital administration. After her military service she worked in the field of medical imaging for 26 years. Currently Ms. Plass and her husband own small businesses in Healdsburg.

"After her military service, Ms. Plass worked her way up through the ranks of the American Legion, becoming the first female commander in the 78-year history of Sotoyome Post 111 in Healdsburg," Chesbro said. "Currently she serves as the post's staff judge advocate." Ms. Plass is also a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and serves as judge advocate of AMVETS Post 40 in Santa Rosa.

She has also volunteered over three decades for community improvement projects and organizations. These include The Women of Ground Zero, the Healdsburg Skate Park, Healdsburg's Plaza Gazebo Project and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. "In 2009 she joined California AMVETS Legislative Committee, helping to create its first Veterans Legislative Platform," Chesbro said. "In 2010 she was appointed California AMVETS legislative chair, where she remains today creating and supporting legislation to resolve issues for veterans and their families in California." Ms. Plass also serves on the

Continued to the right

Paid up for Life (PUFL)

Members of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary have the opportunity purchase a Paid Up for Life membership. This eliminates the annual dues and the risk of the dropped if you forget to pay. Other benefits include not having to worry about any future dues increases. The program automatically covers any future dues increases.

Members of the Post can get additional information for Finance Officer Bob Taylor at 707-894-0857. Auxiliary members should contact Linda Karnstedt at 707-657-4416.

**BRAVO - ZULU - WELL DONE**

Share the news. Are you involved in another community organization. Let Tom know. Toot your horn or let us know about someone who is doing good work in their community!

An apology goes out to **Jackie Richey**. She was with us when we installed the officers of Cloverdale's William Russell Ledford Post 293 on June 13th.

Thank you to all of the American Legion family members who attending the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on Wednesday evening, July 11th. We had a great turnout and were highly visible.

Thanks to the Auxiliary for their booth at the Fireworks show. Their booth with a variety of treats, was a hit with the crowd.

To Yountville Bingo Team that that travels to the Veterans Home for a fun filled hour of bingo every month. The team includes Commander Tom and President Nancy, Past Commander Dave and Jackie, Past President Rose, and Eddy Sauer

Thank you to the members of our ALR chapter who escorted the brother of one of their members from Santa Rosa to the National Cemetery in Dixon.

BRAVO - ZULU - WELL DONE**Continued from the left column:**

California Interagency Council on Veterans, which Gov. Jerry Brown created last year to improve how veterans services are coordinated across local, state and federal government.

Bud and Lorraine, THANK YOU FOR SERVING
OUR
COUNTRY and the MEMBERS OF
SOTOYOME POST 111, THE AMERICAN LEGION.



Sotoyome Son's Update

Al Delsid, Squadron Commander

My first year as squadron commander has come and gone and now we set our sights on a new year for our squadron. I would first like to thank all S.A.L. members who participated in the 4th of July activities. It was great to see our members working side-by-side as part of the American Legion Family. Our help was acknowledged and very much appreciated.



I recently had an opportunity to attend the Detachment convention in Redding, Ca. on June 21-23rd. This was a great experience and I learned much about the SAL organizational structure within the State and most of all I had an opportunity to interact with other squadron commanders to learn about projects they are working on. There are many great ideas and opportunities to help nationally and throughout the State but first we must begin by supporting projects within our own community and supporting those of our own American Legion Family. By the way, I was honored to accept our first 100% membership ribbon that will be mounted on our SAL flag. This was a great opportunity and I thank the Post for sponsoring my attendance.

As I mentioned at the last meeting, there was a scheduling conflict with our annual June 14th Flag Retirement Ceremony. The Flag Retirement ceremony went on as re-scheduled on June 28, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Windsor Fire Station #2. We conducted our flag retirement ceremony and respectfully committed approximately 200 flags to the flames of freedom.



Sotoyome Squadron 111

Sons of The American Legion

By Their Side with Honor and Pride



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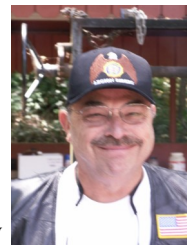
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Sotoyome Chapter 111, ALR

Ron Collier, President

We are an association, a group of American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members who ride for a cause.



We met at Round Table Pizza in Windsor for the monthly meeting and was well attended by 14 members and 2 new members for the first meeting of the newly elected board of directors. President Collier opened the meeting at 6PM and presented the officer's with vest pins for their newly appointed positions on the Board and will present Past President Gary Greenough with his Past President pin at the next meeting.

The first goal of the new Board is to complete all the necessary paperwork work to bring the chapter to a current status with the state ALR and bring the current dues structure to meet that same standard. To date, we have not received our state chapter paperwork.

The Chapter also will try and visit the Clearlake ALR post once a month for a BBQ and enjoy a group ride for all ALR riders.

The meeting was closed at 7PM until the next meeting will be held on August 7, 2012 at Round Table pizza in Windsor.

On Friday, July 20th the ALR did an escort for one of our own. Gino Hawley's (ALR) brother who was one the "Hell on Wheels" Battalion was escorted from Santa Rosa to the National cemetery at Dixon on Friday by a large number of biker's. Fourteen from the ALR group were involved in the escort to give his brother his final send off which also included a full military service at Dixon.



**Still Serving...
And Riding!**

American Legion Riders

Sonoma County Veterans Service Office

3725 Westwind Blvd, Suite 101, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 565-5960

PO Box 4059, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Westwind Blvd is located near the Main Terminal at the Charles M. Schulz (Sonoma County) Airport From Hwy 101: exit Airport Blvd. Left on Westwind Blvd and right into the parking lot.

Sotoyome Post 111 The American Legion

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Healdsburg, CA 95448

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Post 111, Auxiliary Unit 111, Son's Squadron 111, Legion Riders Chapter
A proud part of the Healdsburg Community since 1920

If you know of a veteran and his/her family in need, please call Commander Tom Grimes at (707)481-9169 or Stan Shusda at (707)838-4593

The Back Page

Building Bridges. This year we are focusing on building relationships with more community groups. A couple of examples come to mind. The SAL Squadron has been working with the Windsor Fire Department on the Flag Retirement Ceremonies. This had lead to several Scouting units becoming familiar with the SAL program. We are also working with the Rotary Club of Healdsburg Sunrise. We are promoting their 4th of July events and they in turn are supporting the fireworks show and they host the annual Veterans Day Breakfast that is becoming more and more popular. Many of you are involved in other community groups that that would be potential partners.

Schools. Last year we distributed flags to the local schools. This year we are continuing this effort. In addition we need revitalize the post oratorical program to include public, private and home school, high school age students and we can introduce the Veterans in the Classroom Program. Please contact Commander Tom if you would like more information on these programs.

A reminder: If you receive your newsletter by email, please print and share it with other family members.

The Sotoyome Newsletter

The Official Monthly Publication of the
Sotoyome Post 111 and the Sotoyome American Legion Family

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
The World's Largest Veterans
Organization
MEMBERSHIP Is our Lifeblood
INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN US
TODAY